JOURNAL OF THE

CHEMISTS & DRUGGISTS ASSOCIATION

MADRAS.

Editor:

SHRI R. GANESAN

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THE

Journal of the Chemists and Druggists' Association

MADRAS-3

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ASSOCIATION

Editor

SHRI R. GANESAN

Vol. I | JUNE 1962 | No. 9

Substandard, Misbranded and Spurious Drugs

The remarks of the City Second Presidency Magistrate, Madras, in a case under Drugs Act call for serious and immediate attention of the Manufacturers, Wholesalers and Retailers. The Judgment was delivered about two weeks back when a retail merchant was sentenced to three months R. I. and a fine of Rs. 300 for selling spurious Gripe Water Unfortunately the Gripewater sold was not only substandard but was sold under the name of a well-known brand. Though the Act stipulates a minimum punishment of one year R.,I. for such offences, the Magistrate was kind enough to accept the plea of the merchant that he was ignorant about the quality and as a retailer purchased it from some wholesaler.

It is well known throughout the country that adulteration in foodstuffs drugs and medicines and other consumer articles is very much on the increase and in some cases grown to alarming proportions It is evident from the sales of such stuff that men of wealth and influence should be at the back of such manufacture. When adulteration in any substance should be punished, more so in drugs and medicines of substandard and spurious nature. The Drugs Act clearly lays down the methods of processing, assaying at in great detail. In fact the manufacturers are compelled to analyse raw materials from which their products on manufactured. There can be no two opinions about the necessity of hundred percent genuine and pure medicines quite unlike other consumer articles. Medicines - oral and injectable - are taken for specific diseases and the doctor prescribes such medicines with full confidence that the prescribed medicines contain correctly the items stated in the formula. The patient or the consumer has implicit faith in the doctor and hence when no improvement is noted, he blames the doctor for not having prescribed the correct medicine. Besides the commercial value, there is the moral value behind the manufacture and sale of medicines.

Having said this, it is necessary to mention a note of warning to the Government who are the custodians for proper implementation of the Acts. The powers given under the Acts are abused by some of the officials, more so at the lower cadre with the result

Views expressed in the Journal are not necessarily the views of the Association.

—EDITOR

that industry and trade are afraid of the official world whereas a comradire spirit has to exist between the Government and the members of the industry and trade. While on the one hand the Government should be stiff and strong in tracking manufacturers of sub-standard and spurious Drugs and try to unearth 'the men behind the screen', it should be clearly borne in mind that harassment at any stage to genuine manufacturers, wholesalers or retailers has to be avoided.

We agree with the learned Judge's remarks that "reasonable precautions on the part of the retailers by themselves can force the offending manufacturers and processers to change their evil ways to some extent". This is possible in the purchase of household remedies to select items from particular manufacturers but in case of Drugs and medicines, it is really difficult as all the preparations are expected to conform to the specification mentioned in the Drugs Act and also to the formulas mentioned in the labels. Retailers should make it a point to effect their purchases through authorised Distributors and genuine Wholesalers. The Wholesalers and Distributors have to be armed with the "Warranty" issued by the manufacturers. They, in turn have to make endorsements to retailers on the strength of the "Warranty" given to them by the manufacturers. The purity of the manufacture can be guaranteed only by the Manufacturer and nobody else and hence it stands to reason that the manufacturer has to be held responsible if the product is substandard or spurious. In this connection, it is pertinent to point out that precise explanation of the words 'substandard' and 'spurious' is necessary to avoid unnecessary harassment from the officials.

The question of 'Warranty' is one of the important items of discussion in four or five Drugs Conferences. It is regrettable that no decision has yet been taken by the Government so far. We understand that they propose to circulate their views to the various Associations to get their opinion to enable them to take a decision at the next conference. We wish decisions on such vital subjects, which remain undecided for a fairly long period, are taken early by the Government.

Summing up, we can with emphasis repeat that the Manufacturers of spurious and misbranded drugs are to be ruthlessly punished and the places of manufacture sealed. Such manufacturers are to be given very deterrent punishment and if need be the Law has to make some provision for catching this anti-social elements. The Wholesalers and Retailers have also their responsibilities in this matter in seeing their purchases are made from authorised and reliable wholesalers. The duty of the public also is to be vigilant in their purchase of genuine medicines and co-operate with the Government in tracking anti-social elements. It will be agreed that the matter has become so urgent that a special machinery has to be set up to "hunt up the big culprits, whatever their power of wealth or political influence on the basis that the wholesale adulterator and spurious drug manufacturer are Public Enemies Number one.

Pharmacists - Then and Now

BY

SHRI B. V. PATEL, B.SC., B.Pharm. (Lond.) F P.S.,

Director, Drugs Control Administration, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

[Excerpts from Presidential Address By Shri B. V. Patel, B.SC., B.Pharm. (Lond.), F.P.S. Director, Drugs Control Administration, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad at the 16th Annual Conference of THE UTKAL PHARMACISTS' ASSOCIATION : Rourkela, 15th April 1962.]

(1) Art of Pharmacy in the Olden Days

Charak had declared that " There is no substance in the world which is not medicine ". Materia medica was also classified into three different groups, namely, animal, vegetable, and mineral. In addition to these classifications, clear instructions were given regarding the kind of country, season and clime of culling of herbs, selection of herbs and the methods of storage. Minute instruction were given regarding the selection of drugs in Charak-Chikitsa-Sthana :—

" The best of habitats for medicinal plants is the Himalayas, the most majestic of mountains. It is the fruits grown in the Himalayas that are, therefore, to be properly culled every season, rich with juice and potency, mellowed by the sun, wind, shade and water, unnibbled at by bird or beast, unspoiled and marked with cuts or diseases. We shall now describe the modes of administration and the excellent effects of the these fruits ".

Similarly, with regard to the storage of herbs, it has been stated that they should be stored in rooms with doors opening to the east or the north and that they should be windless, proof against fire, water, moisture, smoke, dust, mice and quadruped.

In order to ascertain the action of the drug on the human body, the great sages evolved the five determinations, *viz.* taste, quality, potency, post-digestive effect and specific action.

The various processes known to modern pharmacy are clearly all represented in the aphoristic list of Charak.

" Preparation is the process performed to modify the natural properties of substances. That process again is that which modifies radically the properties of substances. This modification is brought about by dilution, application of heat, clarification, emulsification, storing maturing, flavouring, impregnation, preservation and the material of receptacle ".

The above quotation clearly shows that the art of Pharmacy had reached a very high level in those days. Therefore, this great Son of this soil has given to us a heritage of the knowledge of Pharmacy which we must cherish, and improve it further with our own devotion to the cause and intense desire for learning newer and newer techniques.

(2) Pharmacist and Public Relations

A major outpost of medicine to-day is the counter of the Chemist and Druggists shop

and the Pharmacist always stands vigil behind the counter. For, if the plant of the pharmaceutical manufacturer is the arsenal, if the clinics and hospitals are the proving grounds, if the physician is the strategist and tactician, it is the pharmacist who has the widest and most immediate opportunity to spread the news. More and more, the public service role of the Pharmacist depends not so much upon what he does as upon what he knows.

Before the age of modern drugs, the physician prescribed and the pharmacist compounded. To-day powerful drugs head straight for the bull's eye of a specific disease and such is their potency that the pharmacist, as well as the physician, needs to know all the facts about dosages, reactions, side reactions and effects. The pharmacist does more than merely dispense and deliver. He also gives warnings and information when it is appropriate. He makes the patient understand the physicians directions for taking the prescribed medicines. In the operation of the health team to day, the Pharmacist can make up with his "countryside manner" for the limited hours in the physicians crowded day that could be devoted to the old-fashioned "bed-side manner".

On behalf of the whole health team, the pharmacist is a guardian of the public safety, scrupulously dispensing the prescriptions exactly as specified, serving the public as friendly ambassador of the pharmaceutical industry

(3) Pharmacist and the Law

Another matter of pertinence to pharmacists is the seemingly never-ending influx of nondescript remedies of questionable merit. All too frequently some of you may be approached by representatives of firms offering products for over the counter sale which contain in their labelling many grand and glorious claims for the correction of numerous disabilities. Fortunately, majority of such articles are innocuous in the sense that their ingestion or other use would not in itself, cause dire results. Unfortunately, such products often cruelly and expensively raise the hopes of the buyers and may be harmful in the sense that they nullify the user's seeking proper medication. No concoction of this kind should, therefore, find its way into the professional pharmacy. It is expensive to the customer and consequently to the pharmacist at whatever the price. Your customer wants to believe in you and in your products. How can he do so if you fail to protect him? Our rigid enforcement by the law in this and other respects is in the interest of both the customer and the pharmacist.

Another aspect to which I wish to draw your attention is the repackaging of over-the-counter drugs. The law intends that identity and integrity of drugs be preserved all the way to the ultimate consumer. From time to time, we have encountered instances where pharmacists substitute and repackage over-the-counter items without placing adequate labelling including directions for use and necessary warnings on the repackaged articles Obviously, the purpose of the law is defeated if the pharmacist substitutes and repackages over-the-counter drugs and fails to transfer to the repackaged articles the necessary directions for use and warnings which appear on the original package. A repackaged drug is not entitled to enjoy any labelling exemption that the original product is not entitled to receive. The substitution resorted to by some pharmacists for petty gains lowers the prestige of all pharmacists in the eyes of both the doctors and the patients. I, therefore, appeal to the pharmacists not to resort to

any unethical practices which lower the reputation of the pharmacists.

Although much of the law applies to drugs before they ever reach the pharmacist. I believe there is much the pharmacist can do and is called upon to do, within the framework of the law to establish himself in a professional way as a part of the doctor, patient relationship. Fundamentally, the law is designed for the protection of the consumer. When the consumer receives the benefits of this protection, as a result of the discharge of the responsibilities placed upon you by your profession and the law then you too will have benefitted.

(4) Development of New Products

Both the medical profession and the pharmaceutical industry labour incessantly to destroy the reason for their existence. The tireless aim of the pharmaceutical manufacturer is to make obsolete his latest drug and relegate to scrap heap his newest equipment. Research workers are working tirelessly to outdate their own products, to iron out side effects, to discover broader fields of application. At the same time, they carry on research which probes the nature of those dark areas of affliction which still confront mankind.

Figures go to show that 67% of these new products were developed in United States and the remaining 33% were developed by foreign Research Laboratories.

The question before us is where does India stand in the development of new drugs. Except for the developments of Hamycin a new antifungal agent no new drug has been developed in the country in recent years.

The other question that would naturally arise is that in spite of the larger and larger funds being spent on research, how is it that the number of new products developed is low. The only explanations that could be advanced is that we have reached a stage in limitation of our knowledge about certain diseases, mental aberrations, cardiovascular disorders, the collagen diseases, cancer, the process of aging and others. What is, therefore, now required is greater attention on basic research and study of the biochemical reactions which in turn may throw a greater light on number of unsolved problems.

(5) Vital Role of Pharmacists

The whole scheme of new product development - which is the real heart of the pharmaceutical industry - presents an ever increasing challenge not-only to individual firms and to the industry but to every person who is engaged in these operations. At one time or another, in the historical development of a new product, a great number of people and disciplines become involved - but the pharmacist plays one of the most vital roles of any professionally trained person in the pharmaceutical industry.

In the United States of America, Pharmacists almost completely staff the pharmaceutical research and development departments of all the drug companies. They compound the tablets, formulate the oral suspensions and manufacture the oral, topical and parenteral preparations. They alone successfully devise the dosage forms which find their way to the shelves of every retail and hospital pharmacy. Pharmacists find their way into the production departments of drug companies and become supervisors and managers of the pharmaceutical production departments.

The above details of the vital role of the pharmacist in the pharmaceutical industry calls for an examination and introspection as to whether the pharmaceutical industry in this country has given the

pharmacists the importance which is so vital for the development of pharmaceutical industry on sound lines. It is often asked that why a Pharmacy graduate is considered necessary for the manufacture of drugs when the work can be done by graduates in Science, Chemical Engineering etc. The answer to this question is given by the progress made by the pharmaceutical industry in America who by utilising the services of pharmacists have made rapid progress not only in the development of new drugs but also in the development of formulations and newer forms of time-release preparations.

Those industrialists in the country who have utilised the services of pharmacists have gained by their knowledge and experience and I am confident that with greater realisation of the usefulness of the Pharmacy graduates in the various jobs of the pharmaceutical industry more and more pharmacists would be required by the industry to supervise the development, production and the control operations.

(6) Cultivation of Crude Drugs

It has been the experience of those engaged in manufacture of pharmaceuticals from crude drugs that they do not get supplies of genuine drugs of standard quality. This is a problem which can be solved only if there is proper classification and marketing of crude drugs in the country. As you all know, that the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research by creating Central Indian Medicinal Plants Organization (CIMPO) has taken this onerous task.

I understand that efforts are being made by CIMPO to cultivate Rauwolfia, Mentha Arvensis, Lemon Grass and others, but these efforts need to be intensified much more on a war footing to enable us not only to meet the requirements of these indigenous drugs of the country but also to earn valuable foreign exchange by exporting these drugs, which are in demand in other countries. I am sure it would be possible to make greater headway by planning these programmes with the co-operation of all the people concerned and utilising the facilities afforded by the Community Development Projects.

(7) Appeal

While agreeing that the status of the pharmacists should be improved I appeal to my brothern to spare no efforts in the advancement of the knowledge of the pharmaceutical subjects. The progress made in the technology of the pharmaceuticals and the development of newer specific remedies, requires greater and greater knowledge on the part of the pharmacists.

In conclusion, I would like to state that if the pharmacists of the country unite under one banner and continuously work for the betterment of their knowledge, then I see a very bright future for the pharmacists.

——★——

You can always tell the stuff that a young man is made of, by noticing his attitude toward a hard job.

*   *   *

Boxing for profit, dance competitions and beauty contests are banned under South Viet Nam's Morality Protection Law, promulgated by President Ngo Dinh Diem on May 22. The law, approved by the National Assembly recently also bans prostitution, abortion, and contraceptives, and the sale of cigarettes or strong wine to persons under the age of 18.

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Ten Commandments to Pharmacists

BY

SHRI C. V. NARASIMHAN, B.SC. (Chemistry), B.SC. (Pharmacy)

Drugs Inspector, Madras City.

The primary object of the profession of Pharmacy is to serve the public, especially the sick, by safeguarding the handling, sale, compounding and dispensing of medicinal substances. The practice of this noble profession demands professional knowledge, skill and integrity. In recognition of this service the Pharmacists are entitled to certain privileges necessarily denied to others. But they are expected to discharge their professional obligation with due regard to the physical and moral well being of society and follow the code of their professional ethics, the principles of which may be summarised in the form of ten commandments which may be stated as follows :—

1. Always buy, sell and dispense only the best and standard drugs. But never buy or sell or dispense sub-standard drugs or objectionable nostrums or accept agencies for such drugs.

2. Do not sell or dispense powerful drugs and poisons to unqualified persons but do take all proper precautions to safe guard the public from poisons and from habit forming drugs by strictly adhering to the rules and regulations governing their distribution.

3. Always seek and enlist the confidence of your patrons but never try to abuse this confidence.

4. Do not attempt to prescribe or treat diseases or strive to sell drugs simply with a profit motive or substitute any drug in a prescription.

5. Always keep your pharmacy neat, clean and well equipped.

6. Always regulate your public and private life in such a way as to merit the confidence and respect your fellow citizens.

7. Do not enter into any clandestine arrangement with any physician.

8. Do not perform any acts or be a party to such acts that will bring discredit to you or to your profession or to your fellow pharmacists.

9. Always help your fellow pharmacist when he needs your professional advice or any supply to meet any emergencies but never hesitate to expose the blacksheeps amongst you.

10. Do not discuss the therapeutic effect of the physician's prescription or say anything that will tell upon reputation of the physician but faithfully and implicitly follow the directions in the dispensing of prescriptions except in cases of obvious error or omission and handle them tactfully.

—★—

Association News

Excise Duty on Patent and Proprietary Medicines

The Letter addressed to the Government of India is reproduced below:

EX/283/62.

The Secretary, Central Excise,

Government of India, NEW DELHI.

25th May 1962.

Sir,

The revision of the excise duty on Patent and Proprietary Medicines from 10 p.c. to 7½ p.c. though apparently will lead one to think that Government have reduced the duty on medicines, is in fact coupled with a new definition for Patent and Proprietary Medicines which really includes all drugs and medicines. So, instead of being a *bonafide* gesture of reduction of excise duty on medicines it has really created a serious confusion in the Drugs Trade and has put the manufacturers, repackers and the trade as a whole in serious difficulties. We enclose a copy of the letter published in the Hindu dated 23-5-1962 from the Joint Secretary of the Association of Indian Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, Calcutta, which explains clearly the dangerous implications of the new levy both to the Drug industry and the general public as well.

Even if B. P. or other Pharmacopoeia drugs are repacked and sold in sizable containers for the convenience of the consuming public it becomes liable to excise duty because of some brand or distinctive mark of the manufacturer or repacker on the lable. Indeed, the change has been in no way beneficial to the trade. The way in which an attempt has been made to charge excise duty on the imprint of the name or monogram of the manufacturer on labels is bound to lead to serious repurcussions on the industry and trade and the public will have to face serious dangers of unauthenticated preparations in the market.

The Executive Committee of the Association which considered the whole problem passed the following resolutions after mature deliberations and discussions:

" ITEM 3.–(*a*) The Managing Committee of the Association after going through the Gazette Notification re: revision of excise duty on patent and proprietary medicines from 10 to 7½ p.c. feel that the latest amended provisions will strike at the root of Manufacturers and Repackers if exemption is not granted to B.P. B.P.C. and all other recognised Pharmacopoeia products."

" (*b*) It was also resolved further, that the clause stipulating the levy of duty on any new brand or distinctive mark on labels is quite unfair and unjust and if enforced would adversely affect not only the Manufacturers and Repackers but also the entire trade and the consumers as well".

I would therefore request you to give the matter your kind and sympathetic consideration and take all necessary steps to exclude B.P. and other recognised Pharmacopoeia products from the latest amended provisions of Central Excises and Salt Act 1944 and the Central Excise Rules 1944. It is also essential that no new definition other than that given to patent and proprietary medicines in clause (*h*) of section 3 of the Drugs Act 1940 (as corrected upto July 1961) shall be attempted to be imposed.

It is hoped that the above suggestions of the Association will receive the consideration they deserve at the hands of all Government departments concerned and necessary steps taken early to protect the general interests of the Drug Trade and Industry and also the interests of the public to whom medicine is as important and vital as food, if not more.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(*Sd.*) ———,

General Secretary.

Enc: one.

C. C. to The Secretary, Union Health Ministry,
Government of India, NEW DELHI.

,, (2) The Drugs Controller (India)
Directorate of Health,
Government of India, NEW DELHI.

,, (3) The State Drugs Controller,
79-81, Mount Road, MADRAS-6.

(The Association invites from members and others all details of their difficulties experienced in the theory and the application of the excise taxes in the course of day to day routine)

Copy of Letter Addressed to the Hindu

BY

Shri N. C. MUKHERJI,

(*Joint Secretary, Assn. of Indian Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Calcutta & Published in the Hindu 23-5-62*)

Sir,

At the time of first levy of Central Excise on medicine, it was declared on behalf of the Government that they did not intend to tax the essential and life-saving drugs but the levy was intended for patent and proprietary preparations only. There were strong protests from all quarters at the levy of ad valorem Central Excise duty on medicine in the year 1961 on the ground that taxing medicine meant taxing public health. Now, in the second year, the Government have changed the definition of patent and proprietary medicines in such a way that almost all the drugs come under the fold of Central Excise.

Apparently, the public at large were relieved to think that the ad valorem duty of 10 per cent on medicine has been reduced to 7½ percent. This reduction is practically an eye-wash because, by the new definition of patent and proprietary medicine, almost all the drugs will be taxable and as a result cost of essential pharmaceutical preparations too will be increased. It is not wise to tax medicine at all.

In the proposed Finance Bill, even a pharmaceutical preparation will be considered as a patent and proprietary one, if in the label of the medicine or on the cap or on the carton or on the literature enclosed in the packing, there is a monogram or symbol of the company. It is a traditional practice of the manufacturers to have a symbol of the manufacturer inscribed on the label, simply as a common seal which is used on all their products. This symbol has got nothing to do with the trade name of the preparation. Now, if it is not prefixed or suffixed with the trade name, and if it is printed far away from the trade name of the preparation, it will be unreasonable to consider a pharmacopoeial preparation as a patent one because of that symbol.

As per the Drugs Act, every manufacturer must print the name and address of the manufacturer on all the labels and there is no bar under any law for having one's name and address printed in a decorative form in a circle or in some other pattern. Hence, it cannot be understood how by having the name of a firm in that way, an official drug can be named a patent one.

Manufacturers of repute always use pilfer proof caps to safeguard the quality of the preparation against pilferage or adulteration. If these caps do not bear any distinctive mark, they will not serve the very purpose of but a pilfer proof cap, because in that case any one can purchase such plain caps readily available in the market and cause imitation of a popular drug. As per the new definition, in the above Bill, an official drug will be counted a patent one if the manufacturer uses a proof cap bearing his trade-pilfer mark for the purpose of levy of Central Excise duty. Manufacturers, to keep the rates of their preparations competitive, will be forced to remove the trade-mark from the pilferproof caps and thus the manufacturers are going to be forced to keep their products exposed to mishandling by unscrupulous persons.

Difficulties will also arise in processing when a unit is engaged in the production of a variety of tablets. As per the present definition if a tablet is engraved with any abbreviated letters to indicate the name of the tablet, *e.g.*, "S G" for 'Sulphaguanidine', then it will be taken as a patent preparation and will be subject to taxation. There will be chance of error or oversight in the process of manufacture and also in the hands of dispensing chemists and the consuming public, if those symbolic expressions of the name of the tablet are abandoned.

As a result of this new definition of patent and proprietary medicines, clearance of essential life saving pharmacopoeial preparations has been at a standstill from 23rd April, 1962, and there is every likelihood of an increase in price in the hands of the dealers because of the shortage created by this unwise definition of patent and proprietary medicine.

I hope Government, Members of Parliament will realise this difficulty and an amendment will be made of the definition in the Finance Bill before it is enacted.

Registration of Pharmacists under Section 32A (1) (d) (ii) of the Pharmacy Act.

Letter addressed to the Registrar, Madras Pharmacy Council, Madras-6, regarding the above subject and the reply received are reproduced below for the information of our members and other readers:

Letter Ref: No. Ph/278/62

19th May 1962.

The Registrar,
Madras State Pharmacy Council,
111, Mount Road, Madras.

Dear Sir,

Sub: Registration of Pharmacists under Section 32-A (1) (d) (ii) of the Pharmacy (Amendment) Act, 1959.

The Pharmacy Council has been notifying in the Press inviting applications for registration under the above provisions of the Pharmacy Act and the last date for receipt of such applications was 30th April 1962. It is now understood that the Council has already registered several persons who had applied and at its meeting held on 11-5-1962 the Council also decided as to how the applications received upto 30-4-1962 and still pending should be disposed of. We shall therefore feel much obliged if you will please let us have a list of persons already registered as Pharmacists and also the number of applications still pending and how the Council has decided about the registration of those applicants.

The above information is requested for publication in the Association Journal so that our members and other Chemists may be able to select suitable Pharmacists for their Pharmacies. It will also help the newly registered Pharmacists too in getting suitable positions.

In this connection, we would also like to know whether any of those already qualified as competent persons under rule 65 (15) (C) of the Drugs Rules 1945, who applied for registration has been registered by the Council. If in the affirmative, we would request you to kindly let us have a list of also those persons who have been registered up till now.

We shall thank you very much for an early compliance.

(Sd.) ——,
Secretary.

Reply received from the Registrar

No. R. No: 124/M.Ph. C.

28-5-1962.

The Secretary,
The Chemists and Druggists' Association,
No. 1, Memorial Hall Street, Madras-3.

Sir,

Sub:—Pharmacy — Madras Pharmacy Council—Registration under Section 32-A (1) (d) (ii)—List and other particulars—Requested.

Ref:—Your letter No. Ph. 278/62 dated 19-5-1962.

I am directed by the President to inform you that he regrets his inability to comply with the requests contained in your letter cited.

(Sd.) ——,
Registrar.

Uniform Fixed Retail Selling Prices

The Sub-Committee of our Association, which is to contact all the Retailers sectionally in the city to gather and mobilise opinions, has so far concluded its meetings at Mylapore, Mambalam, Vepery and the last meeting on 29-5-'62 at Mount Road. There has been good response from the members and non-members. Some more areas are yet to be covered, before a combined meeting can be called for final discussions.

News from Other Associations

All-India Retail Chemists Association addresses a letter to all the Manufacturers......

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. K. N. Deodhar, writes:—

" The object of addressing this letter to you is to acquaint you with such of the problems as are faced by the retail trade in their dealings with the suppliers, primarily the manufacturers and their sole representatives or distributors.

You will agree that the retail trade is an important and responsible link in the chain of distribution from the manufacturer to the consumer and has a responsible function in the health services of our country. As such, they should be shown every consideration in the larger and ultimate interest of the poor and ailing people of our country. We are confident that you will give us your co-operation in our endeavours which will lead to a better understanding between us and the benefit to all concerned. I have been directed by the Managing Committee to enumerate below some of our problems for your careful consideration ".

Here is the brief of the points raised:

(1) *Dated Products*:

(*a*) Most of the products and all biologicals and vitamins are now issued by the manufacturers with a date of expiry and/or date of manufacture.

But in the case of drugs which deteriorate on keeping, only the date of expiry need be indicated. It is the experience of all dealers that the consumer insists on the latest batch of the manufactured goods, although it makes no difference so long as it is sold and used within the date of expiry.

We suggest that the date of manufacture may not be indicated on the labels.

(*b*) I feel that a uniform policy should be adopted by all Manufacturers to reduce the loss of the retailer to the minimum and also induce a quicker turnover of the dated products. I, therefore, suggest products having a warranty period should be accepted back for credit or replacement.

(2) *Products discontinued*:

Manufacturers discontinue certain products for reasons best known to themselves but for want of propaganda thereafter, such products remain unsold. Such products must be taken back and full value refunded.

(3) *Price Revisions*:

All manufacturers should adopt a uniform policy of making changes in the price structure only once a year - say on the 1st of April of every year when the taxation proposals are known and new financial year's policy can be formulated.

I am of the opinion that every dealer should get full compensation for all his stocks unsold on the date of reduction in the prices, irrespective of the date of purchases, but only after justifying his claim by producing actual stocks, either direct to the offices or to their representatives.

(4) *Uniform Trade Prices*:

Different trade prices to different dealers becomes the primary cause for competition which should be avoided. Dealers purchasing big quantities with the incent ves offered cut the prices to such low levels that their retail selling price is often the cost to the genuine retail dealers who buy direct from manufacturers.

It is also noticed that trade prices are offered by some manufacturers to practising doctors. Retail sale of drugs should be the privilege of only the retail pharmacist who lives on a small margin of profit. A doctor should not be treated on level with the dealer so far as the trade price is concerned.

(5) *Marking of consumer Prices*:

Consumer prices are generally indicated in the price list. It is the expectation that retail chemist will keep to the suggested retail prices to consumers. This is very pious expectation.

The only effective remedy is in the hands of the manufacturers. That is to mark the retail consumer prices on the cartons. This practice of indicating consumer prices is already observed in some advanced foreign countries like Switzerland.

(6) *Warranty*:

I would request, every manufacturer to issue this warranty along with each and every bill to the dealer.

I urge that wholesalers also must issue a subsidiary warranty on the strength of warranty received from manufacturers. Only then, a retail dealer who makes his purchases from the wholesalers, other than manufacturers agent, is effectively protected.

I would make a novel suggestion in respect of the warranty. I have to suggest that manufacturers should print the "Warranty" on the cartons of the products and in case for want of space it is not practicable, then a symbol denoting the obligatory warranty should be printed on all cartons just as a symbol was devised in the days of drugs price control.

(7) *Educate the Retailer*:

It is very necessary that useful knowledge regarding the products is imparted by the manufacturers to the retailers before they introduce any new product. You are, therefore, requested to give such information as is necessary for the retailer to possess, namely, the composition of a speciality, the potency of each of its constituents, nature of the ingredients if poison, indications in brief and the schedule under which the product falls in the absence of a clear classification, indicating whether it should be sold only on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.

Conclusion

I have made the above suggestions and some new proposals, with a view to bringing uniformity in many respects. Problems of dealers are common with all manufacturers. As such, a uniform policy in respect of Trade Prices, Consumer Prices at 20% margin, indicating consumer prices on the cartons, revision of prices only once in a year or at fixed intervals, compensation to the dealers for date expired drugs and products discontinued and the most important, in respect of Warranty " should find favour among all the manufacturers. Trade and other policies are always subject to revision if suitable to the majority of the dealers".

—★—

Scientific News

U.S. Surgeons Report New Success in Heart Operations

St. Louis—Stanford University surgeons report they have removed dogs' hearts for as long as two hours and replaced them without harm. Heart-lung machines kept the animals alive, and the hearts were preserved in salt solution.

The revolutionary experiments may open the way to successful surgery on thousands of patients and new-born babies with serious heart defects that are now inoperable.

The surgeons anticipate the operation might be used in the next few years to treat a condition known as "transposition of the great vessels," a common cause of so-called "blue" babies. At present there is no satisfactory operation for the disorder in which the vessels carrying blood from the heart to the lungs and body are reversed. The doctors feel that a large number of the 15,000 babies born each year in this country with inoperable heart conditions might be helped.

Oral Contraceptives

The use of oral contraceptives over long periods "cannot be contemplated without considerable trepidation," an editorial in Lancet, a Journal for British doctors, said on June 1. The warning came three days after the announcement that the new contraceptive pills would be available to women all over Britain through the Country's Family Planning Association. Lancet said that in practice no substantial cause of concern has yet emerged.

Storage of Vitamins

The effect of different containers and storage conditions on the stability of vitamins in pharmaceutical preparations has been under study at the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow tests were carried out at various temperatures for evaluating the shelf lives of vitamins B-one and C in 12 different pharmaceutical formulations. The percentage retention values of these vitamins after 12 months of storage at 27 degrees Centigrade, have been found to be equal to their corresponding values for six months of storage at 37 degrees Centigrade.

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General News

Diseases of Civilisation

The United States is " the most overmedicated, most overoperated, most over-inoculated country in the world " according to Dr. Herber Ratner, Professor of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, at Loyola University Medical School, Chicago. Giving the picture of the average American in an interview, he said, " We are flabby, overweight and have a lot of dental cavities. Our gastro-intestinal system operates like a spluttering gas engine, we can't sleep, we can't get going when we are awake. We have neuroses. We have high blood pressure. Neither our hearts nor our heads last as long as they should. Coronary disease at the peak of life has hit epidemic proportions. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death. We suffer from a plethora of diseases of civilisation ".

Sterilisation Technique

Foreign Expert for Andhra Hospitals

Secunderabad, May 4, 1962.

Mr. Sivaram Prasad, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Health, said here yesterday that the services of Mrs. Bishop, an international nursing expert, had been placed at the disposal of the Government through the United States Agency for International Development for two years for organising sterilisation sections in all the hospitals as there seemed to be some lapses in sterilisation techniques in some hospitals.

The Minister said that instances of carelessness and discourtesy in hospitals continued to come to the notice of the Government and felt sorry over it. He wanted the relations between the public and the hospitals personnel to be improved. He assured the nursing staff that the Government would do all they could to improve their service conditions.

Welcome to Mr. William Parker

In honour of Mr. J. C. R. Jensen, the outgoing Managing Director, Mr. William Parker, the incoming Managing Director of Lederle Laboratories (India) Ltd., M/s. Parry & Co. Ltd., Pharmaceutical Department, Madras, got up a nice Tea Party at the New Botanical Gardens, of Hotel Woodlands on the 29th May '62. Number of Chemists and Druggists were invited. Our President Mr. G. K. Sanker was one of the Guests, who addressed the gathering. Mr. K. P. Sarathy, Assistant State Drugs Controller, was one of the distinguished guests.

★

Some stupid person invented the proverb :— "Keep a thing seven years' and you'll find a use for it."

As a result, there is a lot of junk in our offices and shops and factories and homes.

A much better proverb would be :— " Carry no rubbish." If you have no use for a thing, better get rid of it.

* * *

There are still quite a few business men with ingrowing minds who say :— " No outsider can teach me anything about my business."

In most cases they are probably right, as they are unteachable.

Legal Reports

Madras, May 19, 1962

A broker in Bunder Street was sentenced to three months' R. I. and a fine of Rs. 300 for selling spurious gripewater under the name of a well-known brand.

According to the prosecution, the accused supplied the spurious gripewater to a shop in Bunder Street from where a drugs Inspector seized some bottles of gripewater. On analysis the gripewater was found to be highly deficient in sodium bicarbonate and alcohol and was therefore substandard in quality. The accused was also selling the goods without a licence.

The Magistrate said the accused had stated at the beginning that he purchased the gripewater from a Marwari without knowing it was spurious. "He has given his neck for somebody who is behind the screen and really responsible for the manufacture and sale of the spurious gripewater". The Magistrate said for these reasons he would give the accused a lesser sentence than the minimum prescribed in the Drugs Act—one year R.I.

Bombay, June 1, 1962

A merchant was sentenced at the Esplanade Court yesterday, to a term of six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 2000/- on a charge of selling sub-standard drugs.

While convicting the accused the court observed that supplying of sub-standard drugs amounted to "playing with the lives of the people".

—★—

Echoes of the Past—to One Poisoned

From "Primitive Physick" by John Wesley, London, 1772.

GIVE one or two Drams of distill'd Verdigrease : It vomits in an Instant :

Let one poisoned by Arsenic dissolve a quarter of an Ounce of Salt of Tartar in a Pint of Water, and drink every quarter of an Hour as much as he can, till he is well.

Let one poisoned by Opium, take thirty Drops of Elixir of Vitriol every quarter of an Hour, till the Drowsiness or Wildness ceases.

Let one poisoned with Mercury Sublimate, dissolve an Ounce of Salt of Wormwood in a Gallon of Water, and drink largely of it. This will entirely destroy the Force of the Poison, if it be used soon.

Nothing cures the African Poison, but a Decoction of the Roots of the Sensitive Plant.

(C. & D.)

* * *

Classical Example

"The periodical complaints about the illegibility of doctors' prescriptions broke out again the other day. The classical example occurred some years ago in west Hartlepool. A rather lengthy prescription got mixed up in a local piccolo player's music, and he tried to play it at a concert, much to annoyance of the conductor. It was subsequently used as a laundry list by a policeman's wife, who found it on the floor of the concert hall. The laundry people thought it was Greek, and sent it to a professor on their list. He thought it was a new method of shorthand and sent it to a commercial school. They sent it to a decoding expert, who copied it in invisible ink and sent it to M. 1·5." Beach comber in the Daily Express.

(C. & D.)

Legislation

Exemption of all shops and establishments in Madras State from certain provisions of Madras Shops and Establishments Act

(*G.O. Ms. No. 2215, Industries, Labour and Co-operation (Labour), 12th April 1962*)

II-1 No. 2147 of 1962.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Madras Shops and Establishments Act, 1947 (Madras Act XXXVI of 1947), the Governor of Madras hereby exempts, for a further period of six months from the date of the publication of this notification in the Fort. St. George Gazette, all shops and establishments in the State of Madras from the provisions of sections 10 and 15 of the said Act, subject to the condition that the periods of work of a person employed shall be so arranged that, along with his intervals for rest, they shall not spread over more than 10½ hours in any day.

R. TIRUMALAI,
Additional Secretary to Government.

Fort St. George Gazette: May 16, 1962.

No. L. Dis. 2972/62.

Office of the Inspector of Labour Madras,
Chepauk, Madras-5,
26-5-1962.

From
Sri S. R. Muthusamy Pillai,
Inspector of Labour, Madras.

To
The General Secretary,
The Chemists and Druggists' Assn.,
1, Memorial Hall Street, Madras-3.

Sir,

Sub. :—MADRAS SHOPS AND ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1947—
Amendment to Section 10 - Spread over of periods of work in a Day - Regarding.

Ref. :—Your letter No. Gl/109/62, dated 21-2-'62.

A copy of G. O. 1192 (Labour) Industries, Labour, and Co-operation dated 27-2-1961 restricting the spread over to 10½ hours is sent herewith as requested. It has also been extended for a further period of six months in G.O. No. Ms. 2215 (Labour), Industries, Labour and Co-operation dated 12-4-'62. Please acknowledge the receipt.

(Sd.) S. R. MUTHUSAMY PILLAI,
Inspector of Labour, Madras.

Vns : 26

Encl.: Copy of G O. 1192, dated 27-2-1961.
Copy of G.O. Ms. No. 1192 (Labour) Industries, Labour and Co-operation, dated 27-2-1961.

Abstract

Acts and Rules - Madras Shops and Establishments Act, 1947 - Provisions regarding fixation of opening and closing hours - Relaxation of - Recommendation of the 11th Meeting of the State Labour Advisory Board - Orders - Passed.

Read the following :—

From the Commissioner of Labour Letter No. L. 14902/60, dated 18-11-60

ORDER :

The following notification will be published in the Fort St. George Gazette in English and Tamil. The Assistant Director of Information and Publicity (Translation) is requested to furnish the Controller of Stationery and Printing with the Tamil Translation of the notification.

Notification

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 6 of the Madras Shops and Establishments Act, 1947 (Madras Act. XXXVI of 1947), and in supersession of the late Development Department notifications Nos. 569 and 570, dated the 20th May, 1949, published at page 700 of Part I of the Fort St. George Gazette dated 31st May, 1949 and 926 dated the 16th November, 1954 published at page 1544 of Part I of the Fort St. George Gazette dated the 1st December, 1954 and the Industries Labour and Co-operation Department Notification Nos. 3122 and 3124 dated the 26th April 1960, published at page 778 of Part I of the Fort St. George Gazette dated the 11th May 1960, the Governor of Madras, hereby exempts for a period of one year from the date of the publication of this notification, in the Fort St. George Gazette all shops and establishments in the State of Madras from the provisions of Sections 10 and 15 of the said Act subject to the condition that the periods of work of a person employed shall be so arrange that, along with his intervals for rest, they shall not spread over more than 10½ hours in any day.

(True copy)

(Department of Revenue)

Medicinal and Toilet Preparations

New Delhi, the 19th May, 1962

G.S.R. 683 - In pursuance of sub-rule (3) of rule 60 of the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Rules, 1956, the Central Government hereby declares that the new medicinal preparation Pectamol Cough Linctus manufactured by M/s British Drug House (India) Private Limited, Bombay shall be included in the category of unrestricted preparations.

(No. F. 45/5(21)/61-Opium).

L. M KAUL,
Dy. Secretary.

The Gazette of India: May 19, 1962.

Ministry of Finance

(Department of Revenue)

Central Excises

New Delhi, the 19th May, 1962

G.S.R. 682 - In exercises of the powers conferred by sub-rule (1) of rule 8 of the Central Excise Rules, 1944, as in force in India and as applied to the State of Pondicherry, the Central Government hereby exempts patent or proprietary medicines, falling under item 14-E of the First Schedule to the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (1 of 1944), of the description specified in column (2) of the Table hereto annexed, from so much of the duty leviable thereon as is in excess of the amount specified in the corresponding entry in column (3) of the said Table.

TABLE

Serial No. (1)	Description. (2)	Amount. (3)
(1)	Medicines in respect of which the list fixing the price at which they would be sold to consumers is not available but the list fixing the price at which they would be sold to retail dealers is available.	7½% of the value calculated after allowing a discount of 10% on the price specified in the second-mentioned list in column 2.
(2)	Medicines in respect of which the list fixing the price at which they would be sold to consumers is a available irrespective of whether a list fixing the price at which they would be sold to retail dealers is also available.	7½% of the value calculated after allowing a discount of 25% on the price specified in the first-mentioned list in column 2.

Provided that the procedure of assessment elected by the manufacturer shall apply uniformly to all the medicines cleared by him.

Provided further that the aforesaid exemption shall be admissible only if the list of price referred to in column 3 represents the prices at which the medicines are ordinarily sold to retail dealers or consumers, as the case may be.

(No. 91/62) B. N. BANERJI,
Jt. Secretary.

The Gazette of India: May 19, 1962.

B.P. Rt. No. 1975/62.

Board of Revenue, (C.T.)
Madras-5, 11-5-62.

Sri S. K. CHETTUR, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Commercial Taxes.

Sub. :—DRUGS - Supply of manufactured drugs to medical Practitioners - Requisitions for - Certain instructions issued.

Read :—Letter dated 29-3-'62 from Dadha and Company, Madras Letter R. No. 79193-DI/62 dated 27-4-'62. from the Drugs Controller, Madras.

Resolution

Clarification has been solicited by Dadha and Company, Madras on the question whether it is obligatory under the Madras Manufactured Drugs Rules that the requisitions received by M1 licensees from medical practitioners for supply of manufactured drugs like Pethidine Hydrochloride, Morphine Sulphate etc., should be in (the medical practitioners printed) letter form as such requisitions are now being received often on post cards. The Board has carefully considered the point raised and issues the following instructions:—

M1 and M2 licensees may honour the requisitions from the medical practitioners - whether received in letters with printed headings or on post cards, provided the licensees are satisfied about the genuineness of the requisitions and the indentors.

(*Sd.*) T. P. SUBBIAH,
Asst. Secretary - II.

To

All M1 licensees (Para 1 only).

All Collectors (whole).

Copy to the Asst. Commissioner of C.T., Excise Wing Madras.

All Commercial Tax Officers. (Administration).

Copy to the Drugs Controller, Madras-6. —(*Whole*)

Copy to the Secretary, Chemists and Druggists Association, Madras-3.

Copy to S.F. of F3.

—(*Para 1 only*)

(Forwarded/By order)

(*Sd.*) ———,
Superintendent.

17-5-'62.

R. No. 84757 DI/62.

Office of the Drugs Controller,

Madras State, Madras-6.

10-5-1962.

Sub. :—Drugs Act 1940 - Drugs Rules 1945 - Food and Drugs Act - Regulations - Communicated.

Ref. :—Government Endt. No. 47632 J II/62-1 Industry, Labour and Co-operation Department dated 4-4-'62.

An extract of Food and Drugs Act and regulations communicated in the Government Endorsement cited is enclosed herewith for information and guidance.

(By order)

K. P. SARATHY,

Assistant State Drugs Controller.

True copy forwarded : by order :

(Sd.) ———

Superintendent.

To

All Drugs Inspectors, Madras City (6)
All Drugs Inspectors, **through** District Medical Officers.

Copy to :

The President, Chemists and Druggists Association, No. 1, Memorial Hall Street, Madras-3.

Copy to Stock file.

msk. 11/5.

Copy of an extract of Food and Drugs Act.

Food and Drug Act and Regulations

3. Food and Drug Directorate has issued the following instructions as a guide for compliance with the Food and Drug Act and Regulations. These instructions are in regard to the pressurized containers used in packing of various food items, drugs and cosmetics. They are to assist the distributors and manufacturers to have a clearer idea about the meaning of the declaration to be made regarding net contents.

(1) The net contents declaration should represent the weight or the volume of the material as it is present in the container and which is delivered when the directions for use given by the manufacturers are followed. The weight or volume of the propellant should not be included in the Statement of net contents.

(2) For drug products and cosmetics in which one or more active ingredients are ordinarily diluted with a vehicle, the net contents declaration by volume should represent the volume of the active ingredient plus the diluent which are delivered but should not include the volume or weight of the propellant.

Manufacturers and distributors are requested to examine their products with a view to complying with the above instructions not later than July 1, 1962.

(True extract)

(Sd.) ———

Superintendent.

CENTRAL EXCISE NOTIFICATIONS

Patent or Proprietary Medicines

Vide Trade Notice No. 21/62
March 28, 1962

It is represented to the Central Board of Revenue, New Delhi, that certain manufacturers of patent or proprietary medicines do not publicise retail prices to the consumers and only the prices to the retail dealers are publicised. The Board consider that in such cases, the manufacturers of patent or proprietary medicines may be given the option of having all their products assessed on the basis of a value which is not more than 10% lower than the publicised prices of the medicines to the retail dealers. The manufacturers who opt for the above mentioned procedure will have to do so uniformly for all the assessable articles manufactured by them.

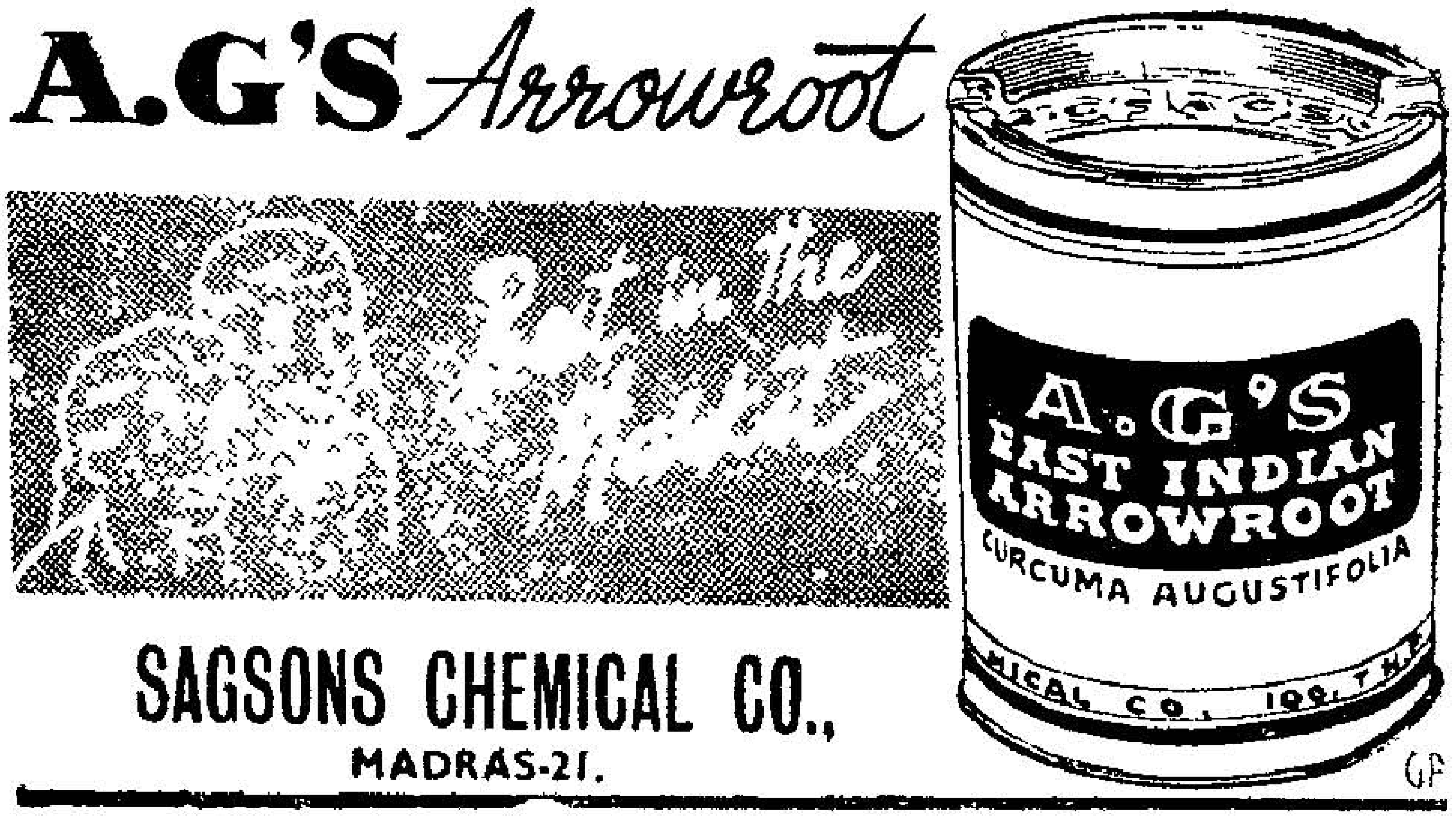
Application Fees for Import Licences - Crediting of - Head of Account

The following Public Notice (No. 47-ITC (PN)/62, dated the 5th May 1962) has been issued by the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry :—

Attention is invited to paragraph 8 of Section I of the Import Trade Control Policy Book for the year April 1962 - March 1963 and paragraph 8 of chapter 2 of the Import Trade Control Hand Book of Rules and Procedure, 1961, whereby application fees for an Import licence can be paid to any Government Treasury or Office of the State Bank of India or the Reserve Bank of India for credit to the Central Government under the Head "Import Licence Fees" subordinate to the major head "XXXVI - Miscellaneous Departments".

2. As a result of rationalisation of Accounting classification of Government transactions, the Major Head of Receipts, etc. have been reclassified and "Import Licence Fees" will now be credited to the major head "XXXII - Miscellaneous Social and Developmental Organisations".

(*I.T.J. May 19, 1962*)



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